

184985

X1-020522-019

OST 2002-11590-616

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Assistant Secretary

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

June 10, 2002

The Honorable Ron Lewis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

Thank you for your letter of April 24 concerning the proposal of the Owensboro-Daviess Regional Airport under the Small Community Air Service Development Pilot Program. I appreciate your interest in this matter.

The Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (AIR-21) established a new pilot program designed to help smaller communities address air service deficiencies, particularly issues related to high air fares and poor service. For Fiscal Year 2002, Congress appropriated \$20 million for this program. Under AIR-21, the U.S. Department of Transportation may use the funds to provide grants to up to 40 communities nationwide, although no more than four may be from the same State. In order to provide communities latitude in developing solutions to their air service problems, the statute also provides significant flexibility as to how the financial assistance may be used.

On February 13, the Department issued an order inviting grant proposals to be submitted by April 22. While the Department will accept proposals filed after that date, those filed by April 22 will be given priority consideration. Owensboro is one of 179 communities that submitted proposals by April 22. As these grant requests are pending before the Department, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of any community's proposal. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full consideration to all proposals filed under this program.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2002-11590 as a contact outside the record of this matter.

If I can provide further information, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Read C. Van de Water  
Assistant Secretary for Aviation  
and International Affairs

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
02 AUG 21 AM 10:11

RON LEWIS  
SECOND DISTRICT, KENTUCKY



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES  
COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
NATIONAL SECURITY, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY,  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2418 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-3501

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
1690 RING ROAD  
SUITE 260  
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42701  
270-765-4360

1001 CENTER STREET  
SUITE 300  
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101  
270-842-9896

FEDERAL BUILDING  
423 FREDERICA STREET  
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY 42303  
270-688-8858

TOLL FREE 1-800-367-6676  
E-Mail: [ron.lewis@mail.house.gov](mailto:ron.lewis@mail.house.gov)  
Website: [www.house.gov/ronlewis](http://www.house.gov/ronlewis)

April 24, 2002

Ms. Read C. Van de Water  
Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs  
Department of Transportation  
Room 10232  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Ms. Van de Water:

I have recently learned the Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport has submitted an application for federal assistance under the Small Community Air Service Development Pilot Program. Because this airport is in my district, I am extremely interested in this effort.

As you well know, the rural airports across this nation are facing a number of challenges with respect to commercial air service. The federal investment of \$500,000 will help the Owensboro Airport meet the challenges that arise due to changes in the airline industry, including aircraft fleet decisions, low-fare airline competition, code share agreements and other events. Reliable scheduled passenger service is an essential part of this region's overall economic infrastructure and the loss of passenger service would be a tremendous setback to this effort.

I am asking for your full and fair consideration, within applicable laws and regulations, of this worthy application. If I can provide your office with any additional information, please contact Brian Smith in my Elizabethtown District Office. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

RON LEWIS  
Member of Congress